(c) what are the reasons for the unsatisfactory performance stating the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN, THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCA- ' TION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Government of India started a Centrally sponsored scheme for assistance to 9-educationally backward States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal in 1979-80 for setting up and running Non-Formal Education Centres as an alternative supportive system to formal schooling., The scheme had two components, first, providing 50 per cent assistance to States for co-educational Non-Formal Education Centres an second, • lOO per cent assistance to voluntary agencies for non-formal Centres. In 1983-84 the scope of the scheme was extended and assistance was offered to the 9-educationally backward States to the extent of 90 *per* cent for Non-Formal Education Centres exclusively for girls.

The VI Plan document did not fix a specific target for' enrolment in NFE centres hut it envisaged an enrolment level of 80 lakh learners to be achieved. However, the programme Was actually implemented within the annual plan allocations made available for it an year to year basis during the VI Plan period. The scheme envisaged an enrolmment of 20 to 25-learners in a Non-Formal Education Centre. In all assistance was given for setting up 1.64 lakhs NFE Centres in the 9-States and an enrolment of 40.89 lakhs. Also. in an overall evaluation, made of the scheme at the end of the Sixth Plan, it was found that the level of attainment of learners . in Non-Formal Education Centres is comparable to that in schools. Thus it would not be right to say that the programme of Non-formal education has faled. The evalua tion made of the scheme has shown that the system bas some weaknesses . also, -particularly, in regard to appro priate location of centres in a state, timeliness in.i setting up a Centre after its sanction, timeliness in ap pointment of instructors and super visors, supervisory arrangements and adequate supply of teaching-learning material to individual learners as en visaged in the scheme. ,

In the light of the weaknesses revealed in the evaluation, the Centrally sponsored scheme for non-formal education has been reviewed and restructured so that the aims defined for Non-Formal Education in the National Policy on Education can be attained.

Davis cup quarters final between India and Israel

361. SHRI CHITTA BASU; Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased tO state

(a.) what are the reasons for Government's decision to allow India's Tennis team to play with Israel;

(b) whether this decision amounts to reversal of , Government's policy and position in regard to Israel and other Islamic countries;

(c) whether protests have been registered by some countries; and

'dl if so what is the nature of the protects and the. reaction of the .Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFATRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-• MATT MARGARET ALVAV (a) to (d) In fulfilment of their binding obligation under the rules coveming the Davis Cup; Tournament, the All India Tenni,, Association decided to play with Israel. The Association ex-

plored the poss' ibility of playing the match at a neut ral venue but on finding that this was not possible, opted for the match being played in India. As this was a binding obligation related to the P romotion of an important activity in the field of sports, the Govemr sent of India approved grant of vis as to Israeli players and sports offlci site to enable the match to take plac :e. India's consistent policy ' of support for the Arab countries 'and .commtfmer it to the Palestinian cause remains unichanged and has in no way been affec ted by this decision. India's position was -explained to Arab and some other troncerned Governments. Some of them expressed reservations about the decision. However, it is the Gov(ernment's assessment that the ratioi tale behind the decision has, by and 'large, been understood.

Implementation of New Education Policy

362. SHRI CHITTA BASU;
PROF. C- LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RE-' SOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleas-ed to state;

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(a) whether the implementation Of the New Education Policy has taken off the ground; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the progress of implementation (State-wise) till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) At a meeting of the ' Central Advisory Board of Education held on 25-26th June, 1987 to review the progress of. the implementation of the New Education Policy, 1986, the Board rioted with satisfaction that the Central'tJovernment had prepared detailed programmes in practically all spheres of priority and the State Governments had Get up necessary mechanisms for seriously undertaking - implementation of the Policy. It was also agreed that in the coming months, it will be necessary for the Central and State Governments to implement the Policy with much greater vigour and tenacity.

Conversion -*or* railway line between Bangalore and Mysore

363. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pieased to state:

(a) what is the original estimate of the cost structure prepared by the Railway Board regarding the conversion of metre gauge railway line into broad gauge between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) whether the estimates have been revised; and

(c) when the work of conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):
(a) Rs. 14 crores.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Its completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.